



Focus on Eastern Regional Office's Water Quality Program

Overview

The mission of the Department of Ecology's (Ecology's) water quality program is:

To protect and restore Washington's water.

The objectives of the water quality program are:

- *To protect, preserve, and enhance the quality of the state surface and ground water, ensuring the wise, environmentally-sound use of the state's water resources;*
- *Prevent the generation of pollutants; and*
- *Achieve a water quality stewardship ethic and an educated public.*

Our Guidelines

The water quality program (WQP) within Ecology is responsible for:

- Administering the state **Water Pollution Control Act (R.C.W. 90.48)**, which requires the prevention and control of pollution to streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, marine waters, ground water, and other "waters of the state."
- Implementing the federal **Clean Water Act (U.S.C. s/s 1251 et seq. [1977])**. In this capacity, the WQP develops and administers surface water-quality standards, monitors and assesses water quality, manages the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) wastewater discharge permit program, administers nonpoint pollution (polluted runoff) control programs, and develops water cleanup plans* (also known as "total maximum daily loads" or TMDLs) for the recovery of impaired bodies of water in the state of Washington.
- Administering the **Centennial Clean Water Fund** (Chapter 70.146), the **Clean Water Act Section 319 Nonpoint Source Program** (Section 319) and the **Washington State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund** (Chapter 90.50A). These funding programs provide grants and low-interest loans for projects that protect and improve water quality in Washington State.



Water Quality Program in the Eastern Region

The WQP in the eastern region is responsible for water quality issues in Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, and Whitman counties. In the eastern region, the program is divided into two units: the *permit unit* and the *watershed and TMDL unit*. The following is a descriptive list of responsibilities and contact information.

Permit Unit

Len Bramble, manager (509) 329-3504 lbra461@ecy.wa.gov

- Technical assistance to small businesses and municipal governments.
- NPDES or State Wastewater Discharge Program permitting of industrial and municipal wastewater treatment facilities to protect ground and/or surface water.
- Permit compliance, facility inspections and review of reports for permitted discharges.
- Engineering review of industrial and municipal wastewater and stormwater systems.
- Complaint response and investigation.
- Industrial pretreatment program.
- Financial help for treatment facilities.
- Enforcement of permits and related water-quality laws.
- Stormwater permit compliance site inspections.
- State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and review of projects receiving federal funding administered by the Department of Ecology.

Watershed and TMDL Unit

Nancy Weller, manager (509) 329-3593 nwel461@ecy.wa.gov

- Water cleanup plans or Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs).
- Information on aquatic weed control, mosquito control, fish management.
- Water quality education, information and outreach.
- Management of WQP grant and loan projects (CCWF/SRF/319).
- Coordination of community involvement in water cleanup decisions and actions.
- 401 certification for dam relicensing.
- Complaint response and investigation.
- Compliance activities to address water quality violations.
- Responses to public questions and concerns on polluted runoff (nonpoint) topics, including agriculture, forestry, stormwater, lakes, watersheds and groundwater.

For More Information...

Please contact the Water Quality Program at the Department of Ecology's Eastern Regional Office; 4601 N. Monroe Street, Spokane, WA 99205-1295; you may also reach the following individuals by telephone or email:

Cynthia Wall, permit coordinator	(509) 329-3537	cywa461@ecy.wa.gov
James M. Bellatty, section manager	(509) 329-3534	jbel461@ecy.wa.gov

If you require this publication in an alternative format, please contact Elaine Snouwaert at (509) 329-3503 (Voice) or (TTY) at 711 or 1-800-833-6388.